Amasamudram exchange is planned for expansion from 300 lines to 400 lines, the two MAX-III exchanges namely Sarkarnagar of 200 lines and Tisayanvillai of 135 lines are planned to be converted to MAX-II exchanges with 200 lines capacity each. For other exchanges which do not have capacities, plans are being drawn for providing telephone connections to waiting list persons by suitable augmentation.

(d) During the plan period, Ambasundaram MAX-II exchange is proposed to be expanded from 300 lines to 400 lines. Existing MAX-III exchange of Sarkar Nagar and Tisayanvillai are proposed to be converted to 200 lines MAX-II each ,for which the equipment has already been received. Besides a No of MAX-III exchanges are also proposed to be expanded during the plan period subject to availability of equipment and demand for new telephone connections as per policy of the Department

Setting up of Singrauli Thermal Power Plant

*271. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) by when, the Singrauli Thermal Power Plant in Uttar Pradesh is expected to go into production; and

(b) what is the expenditure incurred and likely to be incurred in setting up this plant and what is the projected power production capacity thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) and (b). All units of Singrauli Super Thermal Power Project, of a total installed capacity of 2000 MW, have already been commissioned. The approved cost of the project, alongwith the associated transmission lines, is Rs. 1374.93 crores; till January, 1988 an expenditure of Rs. 1257.66 crores had been incurred.

National Communication Network

*272. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to build up a National Communications network and whether for this purpose separate imported sub-system for Railways, ONGC, Energy and Defence sectors are proposed to be set up;

(b) whether the present telecommunication services in the country are in a position of cater to the highly sophisticated needs of these sectors which require un-interrupted communication facilities; and

(c) whether it is considered safer for such vital sectors to have their own independent network, if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (c) An integrated multi-user national telecommunication network already exists in the country. It provides the public telephone, telex, telegraph and data servics as well as leased circuits for large users. This network provides many of the communication requirements of organisations like Defence Railways ONGC and Energy also.

Certain specialised and unique operational requirements of some of these organisations call for supplementing of the facilities provided by the public network by dedicated networks specifically designed for their use. These are built up through a mix of dedicated facilities and circuits and equipment leased from the public network maintained and operated by Department of Telecommunications.

Occasionally if a particular equipment is not available indigenously import could be resorted to in order to meet time targets of the specialised agencies.

The present and planned national telecommunication network in the country can cater to many of the needs of these specialised organisations. Wherever necessary as already being done this could be supplemented by dedicated facilities.